

AUDIO TEST

Ihr Ratgeber für guten Ton

HECO

The New Statement



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Heco „The New Statement“

EXCELLENT

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Firmer, more contoured, better?

At first glance the new model seems to have gained somewhat in terms of weight and dimensions compared to its predecessor. The reasons for this are likely down to an improved reinforcement of the housing and the rounded sides. The new style surface in an espresso piano finish with dark wood veneer, which has been coated and sealed with a high gloss lacquer, makes the unit a real eye-catcher. A magnetically attached speaker grille can be fitted to the chassis if desired. The 3-way bass-reflex configuration, which features three openings at the rear, has not really undergone any changes in terms of its basic technological principle. The anti-parallel side panels, as well as the manufacturer's enhanced endeavours to produce a mechanically rigid housing that is resistant to acoustic resonance, are plain to see. All of the individual aspects, such as the large adjustable spikes, lend a personal touch to the design. But much more interesting is the fact that the endeavours result in a very positive audio experience. The terminal area at the rear exhibits a few special features. The insulated, solid terminals allow a tri-wiring or tri-amping configuration, while a single-stage treble and midrange adjuster is also provided. If we take a closer look at the details, it is evident that the tweeter is larger than the previous model. It features a 30 mm mixed fibre fabric dome (PFC dome), which is driven by a powerful double magnet system for improved, low-distortion dynamics. The dome is embedded in a cleanly machined aluminium front panel, which also features a short horn attachment. According to Heco, the tweeter is coated with nanoparticles and is closely based on a selected speaker from its top of the range Celan GT series. The midrange has not been altered and is the same as that used in "The Statement". Its drive has been formed from a mix of materials with "high magnetic strength" which goes by the abbreviation of AlNiCo (aluminium, nickel, cobalt and iron). The finite element method and laser-based Klippel system technology have been used to optimise the drive for maximum symmetry in terms of its physical parameters and to minimum distortion values in terms of playback. A very interesting aspect is the aperiodic damping element, which features a rear opening for the midrange speaker's own housing. The benefits that arise from this include strong resonance damping and a clean cone transient and sustained response. The objective is to achieve a clean pulse reproduction. The taut lightweight paper/wool cone with its coated fabric surround contributes to this. Two 190 mm chassis, which are equipped with a paper cone manufactured from a DIN-standardised long fibre kraft pulp, cater for the bass range. The cone geometry now forms a flatter surface with the inverse dust cap. With wide-ranging speaker surrounds and 32 mm voice coil systems, the speaker still ensures a broad dynamic response. The rigid die-cast aluminium baskets and the linearised magnetic systems effectively support playback quality in the same way they do in the midrange unit. According to Heco, new features have been added to the crossovers, which are designed to provide an open and more dynamic overall sound. We were curious and treated the speakers to a few days' break-in period. A pair

of "The New Statement" speakers exhibit less of a voluminous bass sound in the listening session compared to their predecessor. The sound now seems tighter, more contoured and dryer in the deep mid-range. These are characteristics that allow the detection of even the most subtle of bass lines. Other tests also indicate a controlled coordination in this range. The stimulation of room resonance caused by the bass reflex response was significantly less pronounced. The pulse response of the woofer now also seems to be more controlled. After a long break-in period we opted for a -2dB reduction in the mid-range. The reason for this was that the electric guitars in rock tracks sounded somewhat too superficial for our personal taste - an issue that was less pronounced in the previous model. This adaptation reproduces vocals and typical percussion sounds with a pleasant and plastic expression. The treble range is bright, open, and not prone to exaggeration, meaning that no excessive sibilance or "S" sounds are produced. The recording of a solo soprano with accompanying organ is localised extremely well inside the church building. The bass of the organ does not mask any ambient noise and the voice is articulated excellently. The excellent spatial imaging of the stereo pair was also evident in other audio examples. A well known piece of music in which a flamenco dancer does her thing on stage is reproduced with an acoustic depth that is clearly perceptible. The accompanying guitars produce a tight fundamental tone without causing any significant colouration of the sound. The sound of the strings was somewhat rigid, while a slightly increased transient accentuation was also evident at other locations. This was also the case for the sound of the kettledrum and the piano strings. In general, however, the dynamic impression was rather positive. The audible acoustic stage is a real pleasure. The orchestration of Wagner's "The Flying Dutchman" was excellent in terms of gradation of the bass range and breadth of the rendition. The emission of sound from "The New Statement" speakers and the illusion of being in a concert is now more convincing. Significantly more attention is given to the brass and woodwind instruments in this regard. Even the strings are reproduced with an extremely detailed resolution. The dynamic rumbling of the drums is presented punctually throughout the sound pattern. The floorstanding speakers conduct themselves exquisitely when it comes to the interpretation of modern music genres. The contoured power of the bass range, the bite in the mid-range and the open-sounding treble range excel here. The low distortion dynamic capabilities and the high sound pressure level exhibited by the system enable an effortless rendition, even at high volume. All of this, coupled with a consistently high quality of workmanship on the housing and speaker components make this system "excellent" value.